

POSTPONE ACTION ON SEWER MATTER

Property Owners in the Flood District Ask to Be Heard

CALL MASS MEETING

Engineer Will Make Survey of District for a Sewer Bond Issue

Action on the Eleventh street sewer contract and all other proposed sewer projects affecting what is known as the Central park outlet was deferred Friday by the city commission at the request of a delegation of 35 property owners headed by John R. Woodward, R. K. Hughes and Frank E. Curry. All of these owners live on streets near the sewer outlet at Eleventh and Main which in past rainy years has caused heavy damage to property because of the inadequate sewer and consequent backup of floodwaters into basements.

This drainage district of more than 2,000 acres extends east to Kendall, north to the Frisco tracks, west to Main street, and at the southwest corner touches Denver avenue. More than 35,000 people live in it, according to an unofficial estimate of City Engineer C. S. Griggs.

The Eleventh street sewer would empty into the Eleventh street outlet which is already crowded whenever there is heavy rain. The proposed sewer outlet for Kendall would also drain to Eleventh street.

Those property owners who visited the city commission Friday requested an extension of time on the Eleventh street sewer and that no action toward starting the Kendall outlet be begun for 30 days to afford an opportunity for investigation to find whether the water from Kendall can be diverted in some other direction. Hughes declared if such a postponement were announced he would seek to enjoin the Eleventh street project.

In the meantime the property owners are to select a committee of their choice, and the city is to appoint a committee. These two committees are to jointly select an engineer in whom they place confidence and have him investigate the feasibility of a different outlet. That all property owners not represented at Friday's meeting may have a voice in the selection of their committee, Woodward announced a mass meeting will be held in the Horace Mann school at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday night, January 3, at which the committee will be selected and if possible the engineer named.

Police Commissioner J. M. Adkinson first made a motion that all bids on the Eleventh street sewer project be rejected because of the 30-day delay and consequent possibility of changing markets and bids. This motion was lost for want of a second and the motion for postponement passed.

FOUR DEFINITE STEPS TAKEN BY JOINT MEETING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) The joint meeting of the property owners and the city commission agreed that no sewer would be released on bond in felony or criminal cases unless the bond was approved by a citizen's committee composed of W. A. Brownlee, cashier of the Exchange National bank, Arlie Crisp, manager of Jenkins Music company and Charles T. Abbott, realtor.

The county attorney will not extend citizenship in any felony or criminal cases unless the prosecuting witness and the officer making the arrest approve the release.

Books and records of all justices handling criminal cases will be audited immediately, beginning tomorrow morning. State Examiner and Inspector Fred Parkinson was asked tonight to furnish two auditors for each justice until this can be completed.

Hutchinson's Statement Follows: "The law enforcement committee selected by the mass meeting of the citizens of Tulsa met the county commissioners and Sheriff McCullough at 10 o'clock today and were in session most of the day. No more straw bonds.

By mutual agreement the matter of records of officials charged with the enforcement of the law was discussed, also the matter of straw bonds. It was the unanimous opinion that any hidden forces that might operate of criminal proper law enforcement must be removed if such existed.

While the sheriff reported there had been possibly 200 applications for the jobs of special deputies, it was felt that before a crusade against violators of the law should be undertaken, all of the machinery for handling the law violators must be gotten in first-class shape. It is the purpose of the officers charged with law enforcement to do away with the old system of putting up bond only to be brought back in a few days on another charge.

At the afternoon session County

Attorney Seaver, Justices Thompson, Query and Hallman and Investigator Bays were called before the officials and committee. Rapid strides were made toward putting in perfect and harmonious working order the various units of law enforcement which was agreed must be done before the vice crusade is appointed and the work of cleaning up the county can be successfully begun.

Audit Comes First. "No serious consideration was given the matter of selecting the four special deputy sheriffs. McCullough told the meeting that none of the justice courts were functioning properly and until an audit of the books of the three justices handling criminal matter is completed the committee will probably not meet again with the sheriff and commissioners. However, the committee is subject to the call of Chairman Guthrie of the commissioners.

"After the justice audit is completed, the committee, the commissioners and the sheriff will meet again and hear the audit report. If the report shows criminality in the justice courts, new justices will be appointed. But until a complete investigation is made and the path cleared for action, the four special deputies will not be appointed."

At various times during the day, county officials were called into the hearing and after several minutes spent behind the closed door, emerged, looking none the wiser and saying absolutely nothing. Newspapermen were barred as was everyone else. It was a regular grand jury session.

Secrecy Maintained. The session, adjourned shortly after 4 o'clock and the "delegates" left the courthouse, their steps dogged by reporters. But the reporters could learn nothing. Every one of the "delegates," the commissioners and the sheriff had evidently agreed upon a course of action for they all said the same thing: "It was a very harmonious meeting; that committee is a fine bunch of men and we got along fine together. This tangle will soon work out—no we did not appoint the four special deputy officers. Mr. Hutchinson is the official spokesman. He will tell all that is to be made public."

That was all, except that one of the commissioners, volunteered the information that the committee and commissioners were to meet again soon, probably on call. But despite the fact that the committee members, the commissioners and the sheriff were tight mouthed, old Dame Rumor wagged a wicked tongue. Before the session had been in hearing an hour, rumors were flying thick and fast about the courthouse corridors and by adjourning time, everyone of the many loungers about the "temple of justice" had something to tell or had heard something.

That County Attorney W. F. Seaver and his man, F. J. Bays, county investigator, were hailed before the meeting, was one of the rumors. That Justices S. R. Hallman, J. T. Thompson and John T. Query were called, was another.

Deputies Not Appointed. The matter of appointing the

four vice crusaders was ignored, it was reported, and instead the five citizens in the session plunged into what will probably develop into an exhaustive investigation of conditions in Tulsa county and the "why" of law enforcement. The matter of straw bonds was one of the first matters brought before the session. It was reported. After long argument an agreement was reported to have been reached, whereby a citizen's committee is to examine all criminal bonds. This means all bonds in both district and justice courts, it is said.

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When the selection of the four special deputies will be made is a matter of pure speculation. The commissioners and members of the committee admit that it hasn't been done and say that it will probably be put off until the investigation is completed. Sheriff McCullough says that he has received about 200 applications for the jobs but he refuses to reveal the identity of any of the applicants. It is said, however, that many ex-police officers and deputy sheriffs are included in the list.

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